

of concern to every American and every Member of this body.

But there are differences. On the issue of raising taxes, House Republicans are concerned that this would destroy jobs in an already troubled economy. We oppose plans that will continue to borrow and spend. We believe the American people should keep more of their own money and government should limit its own budget.

Fiscal responsibility must mean we limit spending, not just raise taxes in order to build more government. We stand ready to work with our colleagues to make these tough decisions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

#### GIVE OUR TROOPS THE BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS

(Mr. BRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited Iraq and Afghanistan for the first time as a Member of Congress.

The six-member bipartisan delegation met with soldiers, commanders, Iraqi and Afghanistan leaders and ordinary citizens. Though it was a truly eye-opening experience, it only strengthened my deep respect and gratitude for the men and women who serve in our military. They have always performed bravely and done everything we have asked them to do.

As we were in the Middle East, the President announced that an additional 17,000 troops would be sent to Afghanistan. Based on my observations in Afghanistan, a strengthened American presence is badly needed, along with a strong coalition. However, there should be a clear sense of mission with measurable goals in order to give our troops the best possible chance for success.

I look forward to working on the Armed Services Committee to ensure that we meet these goals and that our troops are always given the resources they need.

#### MONKEY BITE BILL

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House we passed a monkey bite bill, and whether one agrees with me that we spent millions of dollars to create a bureaucracy that does not solve the problem is insignificant.

What is significant is one considers the time we spent last year and this year. It is arguably the case that we have spent more time on this floor talking about monkey bites than we have in talking about a \$400 billion spending package.

The President was exactly right last night when he said Americans will work their way through the situation,

but history will judge whether the actions of this House have hindered or helped Americans in that quest to work their way through this situation and, indeed, the verdict may be mixed. But history will not forgive us if we abdicate our responsibility to be representatives of the people and know the details of the bills that come to the floor.

History will not forgive us if we simply declare an emergency and then wave our hands as billions and billions of American tax dollars just simply pass us by. Shame on us.

□ 1015

#### HONESTY CONCERNING THE BUDGET

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when I listen to some of the comments from my colleagues on the Republican side, I am surprised by the remarks they make about tax increases. If you look at the economic recovery package, it actually has one of the biggest tax cuts in this Nation's history. For most people, unless they are at \$200,000 or above for a couple, something like that, they will actually be seeing a tax decrease or a tax cut as a result of the economic recovery package.

The President is being very honest about the budget. If you listened to him for the first time now, if you compare him to the previous administration, the budget is going to increase the actual cost of the Iraq war and the actual cost of Medicare reimbursements. A lot of those things were previously hidden.

In addition to that, most importantly, he talked about the need for deficit reduction. Yes, in fact we are spending money as part of the economic recovery package. We are giving tax cuts, and that does increase the deficit. But over the long term, over the 4 years, the goal is to cut the deficit in half.

It is a very responsible message that he gave last night; short-term efforts to achieve economic recovery, long-term efforts to reduce the deficit.

#### LESS GOVERNMENT AND REAL SPENDING REFORM NEEDED

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last night we heard the President in this very Chamber make the call for Congress to rise above the politics and to work together for the benefit of the American people, even though this side of the aisle has been shut out of virtually all related legislation.

The President called for fiscal responsibility, and I couldn't agree more. But I am perplexed that he would make this call sandwiched between the big-

gest wasteful bills that the liberals in Congress have ever submitted. We need to stop the runaway spending to fund programs that don't immediately put this country back on track for economic stability and which create even more deficits in years to come.

It is very foolish to spend heavily on an unprecedented number of earmarks, only to attempt to balance the budget on the backs of small businesses and those who work and save. Governor Jindal pointed out in his response how effective less government, less spending, and real government reform can be in my home State of Louisiana.

I say that instead of increasing dependence on government to run our daily lives, I strongly suggest that we let the entrepreneurial spirit and the work ethic of Americans with real leadership from Congress create the pathway out of our economic problems.

#### CONGRESS IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address our current economic crisis and the critical need for a budget that offers hope and confidence to the American people.

My colleagues and our citizens understand our Nation's dire fiscal crisis. Our Gross Domestic Product continues to shrink; auto sales are the worst in decades; personal incomes are declining and job losses continue to alarm us daily. In my own district, one of the Nation's most affluent, demand for food stamps has grown 73 percent over the last year, and local officials say the need is much greater and many simply do not apply.

Home values, the largest source of wealth in my district, have declined by as much 32 percent. These are staggering declines. Through September of 2008, there were thousands of foreclosures in Prince William and Fairfax Counties. Stock in Washington metropolitan businesses has declined 41 percent in 2008, a tremendous decrease in value.

However, there is hope. President Obama outlined a vision last night for long-term financial stability. The significant investment in infrastructure, the expansion of the green economy, the call to bring fiscal sanity back to health care embodied in the President's message bodes well for the future. I support his economic endeavor.

#### THE BEST SOLUTIONS COME FROM MAIN STREET, NOT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, last night the Chamber was